MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

February 26, 2016

A.9129 (Glick)/S.6552 (Golden)

AN ACT to amend chapter 537 of the laws of 2008, amending the education law relating to a restricted dental faculty license, in relation to extending the expiration of such chapter.

The New York University College of Dentistry (NYUCD) strongly supports A.9129/S.6552, which would extend the expiration of provisions relating to a restricted dental facility license. In doing so, this bill would continue to allow foreign-trained dentists, who are employed as full-time faculty members at a New York State dental school, to obtain a license to practice medicine in dental clinics or facilities in, or affiliated with, the dental school.

The five academic dental centers located in New York are important providers of quality healthcare education and services, especially for underserved communities. NYUCD provides a rigorous education while also serving as a healthcare provider for patients who have traditionally faced barriers in obtaining high quality dental care. NYUCD provide oral health outreach programs, reaching school children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and the homeless. NYUCD provides over 300,000 patient visits annually, with plans to expand its community services still further.

NYUCD strongly supports this bill because it enables our, and other academic medical centers, to provide a quality education focused on evidence-based patient care, while also meeting the healthcare needs of the community. The ability to provide this education and services is contingent on retaining and recruiting skilled faculty members who provide a high quality education, contribute to important research and policy initiatives, and provide dental services in our community. Some of NYUCD’s key faculty members are foreign-trained dentists, who rely on the ability to obtain licensure from New York State through this statute. If this statute were to expire, they would no longer be able to practice in the school’s clinics, causing both academic programs and community offerings to suffer.

Additionally, the expiration of this statute would also impact NYUCD’s ability to recruit new faculty members. Prior to the enactment of this exemption, foreign-trained dentists serving as faculty were granted a limited license, which did not allow them to participate in the school’s faculty practice plan. This discouraged many candidates from seeking employment in New York as they could not maintain their clinical skills or practice their chosen profession. Without the ability to recruit foreign-trained dentists as faculty members, NYUCD and other academic dental centers would face a shortage of faculty, which would have a significant effect on schools’ ability to provide both a quality education and important community services.

Accordingly, NYUCD strongly supports A.8660/S.6552 and urges the Legislature to pass this bill.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Pautz, Director of Government Affairs at New York University, 212-998-2407, jennifer.pautz@nyu.edu

1 New York University College of Dentistry; Columbia University College of Dental Medicine; University at Buffalo School of Medicine; State University of New York at Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine; and the Eastman Dental Center at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.